

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15

ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01 NEA-10 NIC-01 /214 W

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R 111832Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5714

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 5170

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR COMECON EEC

SUBJ: COMECON INITIATIVE ON CONTACTS WITH THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1. IN THE COURSE OF A LUNCHEON WITH AMBASSADORS
IRWIN AND GREENWALD ON SEPTEMBER 11, UK AMBASSADOR
PALLISER AND EC COMMISSIONERS CHEYSSON AND LARDINOIS
EXCHANGED VIEWS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE MEANING OF THE
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RECENT COMECON MOVE TOWARD THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

CHEYSSON AND LARDINOIS AGREED WITH PALLISER'S ASSESSMENT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE TRYING TO MAKE A VIRTUE OUT OF NECESSITY IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

2. ON THE ONE HAND, ACCORDING TO PALLISER, THEY ARE FORCED INCREASINGLY TO RECOGNIZE THE REALITY FO THE COMMUNITY AND TAKE ACCOUNT OF IT (A) IN TERMS OF THEIR OWN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND (B) THE DESIRE OF THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY WILL USE COMECON TO MAINTAIN OR EVEN ENHANCE THEIR CONTROL OVER ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE EC. HE SAID THAT THE BRITISH AND THE FRENCH ARE BOTH DUBIOUS ABOUT THE SOVIET APPROACH IN LIGHT OF LONG-STANDING PRE-OCCUPATIONS ABOUT SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR EASTERN EUROPE OF A BLOC-TO-BLOC APPROACH.

3. GIVEN THE FOREGOING ASSESSMENT, PALLISER THINKS THE NINE WILL MOVE SLOWLY, NEITHER REBUFFING THE COMECON INITIATIVE NOR DOING ANYTHING TO ACCELERATE ITS DEVELOPMENT. GREENWALD

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30 JUN 2005

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